Setting up of 'Yatri Niwas' at hill stations

345. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need of 'Yatri Niwas' at hill stations in the country to encourage middle income group tourists;

(b) if so, the names of hill stations where the facility of 'Yatri Niwas' is available alongwith the number of persons who can be accommodated there at one time at each place;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is dire need of a 'Yatri Niwas' at Shimla to encourage the middle income group tourists; and

(d) if so, what are the proposals of the Tourism Ministry to construct 'Yatri Niwas' in Shimla and by when such a 'Yatri Niwas' is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SYED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present no hill station in India has a Yatri Niwas constructed by the Ministry of Tourism as the scheme was launched only during 1985-86. A Yatri Niwas for Darjeeling with a capacity of 104 beds has been sanctioned recently and one for Pahalgam, is under process.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Proposals had been invited from all States and UTs for construction of Yatri Niwas at selected locations of tourist importance. The proposal from Govt. of Himachal Pradesh for constructing a Yatri Niwas at Shimla was received only last week and should be cleared within four weeks.

Gold Control Act

346. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the failure of the Gold Control Act to achieve all its objectives;

(b) if so, whether the bullion trade has strongly pleaded for the repealing of the Gold Control Act; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto and what are the hindrances in the way of repealing the Gold Control Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Government have been receiving representations from time to time from the Trade as also from private parties etc. alleging *inter-alia* that the Gold Control Act has failed to achieve the objectives for which it was introduced and that it should be repealed. Keeping in view these reprsentations, the Government have set up two working groups—one to go into the Gold Control policy in all its aspects and the other to review the working of the Gold Control machinery etc. The question whether the Gold Control Act should be repealed would be considered when the reports of these two working groups becomes available.

Recreation facilities for Beedi Workers

347. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recreation facilities for Beedi Workers are meagre in different regions of the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced a scheme for organising sports, games, social and cultural activities for Beedi Workers;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what progress has so far been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. For the